RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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FOR

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PROGRAM Good Morning America

STATION WJLA TV

ABC Network

DATE

July 22, 1980

7:39 AM

CITY

Washington, DC

SUBJECT

CIA and the Television Industry

DAVID HARTMAN: The CIA working with the television industry? Quit a story.

Here's Rona with that.

RONA BARRETT: ...The Central Intelligence Agency, which has always maintained a closed-mouth policy concerning how its operatives work, is changing that attitude, at least in part. We've learned that The Company's offshoot, the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, known as the AFIO, has given full technical and interpretive assistance to Thompson Penney Wagner (?) Productions, Twentieth Century Fox TV, and CBS for a new weekly dramatic series to be titled "The CIA."

The series, using declassified information, will have as its heroes a CIA case officer and his team of operatives. Oscar-winning writer Edward Anholt has been signed to script the initial episode, and will then serve as the series' story consultant.

This is the closest the CIA has ever come to endorsing a work of fiction, and falls just short of the full enthusiasm J. Edgar Hoover gave to the long-running FBI series. Sources say the CIA hopes this series will bolster its credibility, which was severely tarnished after the Vietnam War and the Agency's intervention in the internal affairs of Chile